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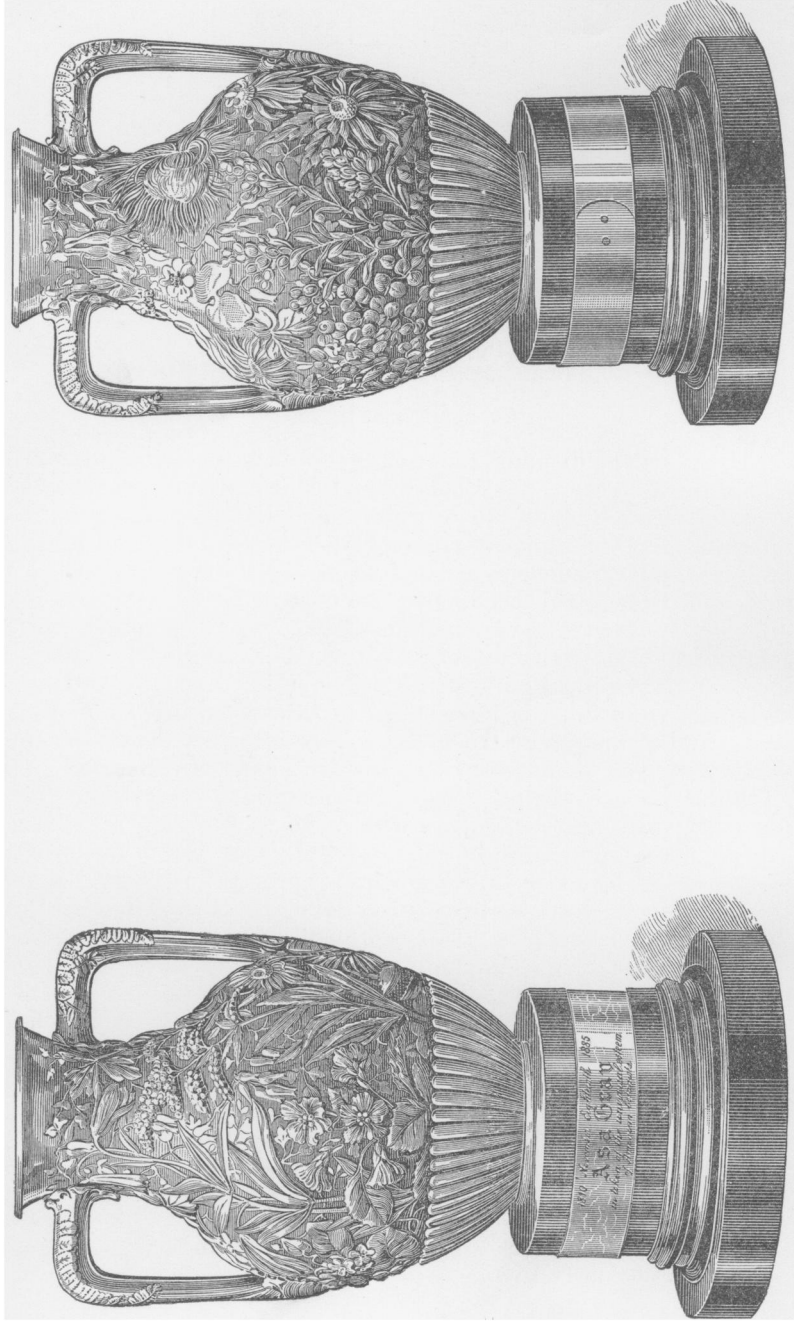
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PLATE XI.



GRAY MEMORIAL VASE.

such work is not yet large, it is annually increasing and improving in quality.

Our laboratories are now principally devoted to the study of the structure and development of plants; observations are also carried on to some extent upon the habits of plants; but the deeper problems of vegetable physiology are for the most part unprovided for. A point to be borne in mind, at least by those in charge of our principal institutions, is that in the near future there will be a strong demand for adequate laboratory facilities in plant physiology, pathology and bacteriology. These are three great subjects of high scientific and economic importance, and for their best treatment require rooms and apparatus of special design.

If the candid reader has fully read this article, he must acknowledge that there are laboratories in the United States of fair capacity and equipment. Their recent and quiet growth sufficiently explains the general ignorance in regard to them; even among botanists it is for the most part only the younger ones who have felt their direct influence. But such institutions are destined to multiply, and it is confidently expected that at no very distant day botany will be taught by the laboratory method in all our colleges and in many high schools and academies.

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### 1810.—Asa Gray,—1885.

(WITH PLATE XI.)

The eighteenth day of November, 1810, saw the birth of him who was to be the greatest American botanist, and the eighteenth of November, 1885, the seventy-fifth anniversary of that day, brought to him a fitting recognition of his place in the hearts of his fellow-workers.

At a late day it occurred to the editors of the GAZETTE that it would be highly appropriate for botanists to unite in some tribute of love and respect which should commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the birth of ASA GRAY, and should manifest to him somewhat of the admiration and honor in which he is held. Accordingly a letter was sent to all botanists whose addresses could be obtained in the very limited time at our disposal.<sup>1</sup> The responses were prompt and generous. On the 31st of October Messrs. Bigelow, Kennard & Co., of Boston, were

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<sup>1</sup> Doubtless many were omitted who would have been glad to join with us. All such omissions must be credited to the absolute necessity for haste.

asked to prepare a design for a silver vase, with appropriate floral decorations. Having designated the shape of the vase and furnished them with specimens and plates of the species to be used in its decoration, this firm submitted a design on November 3d. After consultation with as many friends as possible at Cambridge, the design was accepted, with slight modifications. Work was immediately commenced on it, and the vase was completed on the night of the seventeenth and presented without formality on the morning of the eighteenth of November.

The illustrations which we present give a good idea of the appearance of the vase. It is about eleven inches high, exclusive of the ebony pedestal, which is surrounded by a hoop of hammered silver, bearing the inscription :

1810 November eighteenth 1885

Asa Gray

in token of the universal esteem  
of American Botanists

The lower part of the vase is fluted and the upper part covered with flowers. The place of honor on one side is held by *Grayia polygaloides*, and on the other by *Shortia galacifolia*. On the *Grayia* side the prominent plants are *Aquilegia Canadensis*, *Centaurea Americana*, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, *Rudbeckia speciosa*, and *Mitchella repens*. On the *Shortia* side there are *Lilium Grayi*, *Aster Bigelovii*, *Solidago serotina* and *Epigaea repens*. The lower part of the handles runs into a cluster of *Dionaea* leaves, which clasps the body of the vase, and their upper parts are covered with *Notholaena Grayi*. *Adlumia cirrhosa* trails over the whole background, and its leaves and flowers crop out here and there. The entire surface is "oxidized," which gives greater relief to the decorations. The vase was designed by L. E. Jenks, and the chasing was done by Wm. J. Austin, both with Bigelow, Kennard & Co. The heartiest praise has been bestowed upon the design and the workmanship by all who have seen it.

By the request of the committee greetings in the form of cards and letters had been sent by those who gave the vase. These were placed on a simple but elegant silver plate and accompanied the gift. The inscription on the plate reads :

BEARING THE GREETINGS OF  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY BOTANISTS  
OF NORTH AMERICA, TO  
ASA GRAY,  
ON HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY,  
NOVEMBER 18TH, 1885.

The expressions of affection and respect which are contained in letters to the committee as well as those which were presented to the good Doctor, together with the united and hearty response to the committee's suggestion, all testify how universal is the esteem and how deep is the affection for this genial man, whom we have thus delighted to honor.

The following response is sent by Dr. Gray :

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS , November 19, 1885.

To J. C. ARTHUR,

C. R. BARNES,

J. M. COULTER, *Committee*,

And to the numerous Botanical Brotherhood represented by them :

As I am quite unable to convey to you in words any adequate idea of the gratification I received on the morning of the 18th inst., from the wealth of congratulations and expressions of esteem and affection, which welcomed my seventy-fifth birthday, I can do no more than to render to each and all my heartiest thanks. Among fellow-botanists, more pleasantly connected than in any other pursuit by mutual giving and receiving, some recognition of a rather uncommon anniversary might naturally be expected. But this full flow of benediction, from the whole length and breadth of the land, whose flora is a common study and a common delight, was as unexpected as it is touching and memorable. Equally so is the exquisite vase which accompanied the messages of congratulation and is to commemorate them, and upon which not a few of the flowers associated with my name or with my special studies are so deftly wrought by art, that of them one may almost say, "The art itself is nature."

The gift is gratefully received, and it will preserve the memory to those who come after us of a day made by you, dear brethren and sisters, a very happy one to

Yours affectionately,

